



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Tuesday, October 25, 2005
Date/Time of Occurrence: Ongoing
Nature of Call: Community Alert/Residential Bear Break-ins
Location of Call: Old County Rd area/Dollar Hill/Lake Forest/Rocky Ridge
Released by: Lt. John Addoms (530) 581-6315

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The Placer County Sheriff's Department has received an alarming number of reports of bears breaking into homes in the Tahoe City area and residents are being warned to be aware and take precautions.

Since July, the department has received 77 reports of break-ins by bears, with a dramatic increase seen in the last month in the residential communities near Old County Road, Dollar Hill, Lake Forest, and west to Rocky Ridge. According to Ann Bryant of the BEAR League, a private organization dedicated to the well-being of bears within the Tahoe basin, they have received twice as many reports. The BEAR League has, using surveillance cameras, identified one particular bear, a very large, dark-colored bear, as the rogue bear inflicting most of the damage. Bryant estimates the damage to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The bear is very aggressive in making entry and will break down very solid doors," Bryant said.
"Fortunately, the bear has only targeted unoccupied residences and there have been no injuries."

The BEAR League has been coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Game, the agency having jurisdiction in these cases, and they all agree that conventional means of deterring this bear are ineffectual.

The BEAR League is also coordinating with a professional hunter to destroy the bear before it enters an occupied home and someone gets hurt. Bryant said, "We've tried to deter this bear through conventional, non-lethal means without success. We are saddened that this is required." The hunter, Andrew Gregory of Deadwood Industries, says, "Once a bear habitually finds food by breaking into homes, there's no future for it; it must be removed before it hurts somebody." He will be using dogs to help track the rogue bear.

Anyone finding a bear in their home should avoid confronting it and call 911. Sheriff's deputies have been trained to use "bear aversion rounds" to chase bears from homes and can take lethal measures to protect life. All bear break-ins should also be reported to the BEAR League at (530) 525-PAWS and the California Department of Fish and Game at (916) 358-2900. Residents in bear country are reminded to secure trash, deadbolt doors, and leave lights and radios on. Houses vacated for the winter should have all the food removed, windows shuttered and Pine-sol applied to each windowsill. Additional information can be found on the BEAR League website, www.savebears.org.

**Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's
Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**